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GOVERNMENT PUSHES INSECT AND WATER CONTROL PROJECTS

CONDUCT ANTIBLIGHT AND INSECT CAMPAIGN -- Ning-po Jen-pao, 13 Apr 50

Shanghai, 11 April (Hsin-hua) -- The people's governments of Kiangsu, Fukien, Shantung, and Anhwei provinces have taken positive steps in the elimination of destructive insects and blight of crops before the spring sowing.

At the end of March 1950, the South Kiangsu Special Administrative Office established the South Kiangsu Antiblitz and Insect Control Committee to unify and direct the insect and blight control work. In Wu-hsi, students and teachers of universities and middle schools went into rural areas during spring vacation to propagandize the control work. In Fukien Province, ten corps were organized to encourage people to participate in the mass attacks against insects and diseases.

In Shantung and North Anhwei, concrete measures were taken to combat grain diseases, grain weevils, unfledged locusts, and other insects. Antiblight and insect-control stations were set up in central and southern Shantung to intensify the control work. The Ch'ang-huai People's government of Hsu-i Hsien, North Anhwei, mobilized the local populace in an effective attack against crop insects and diseases.

To facilitate the campaign, the Shanghai and Shantung insecticide and equipment plants have distributed some 950 tons of insecticides and 10,240 pieces of spraying equipment.

FARMERS REPAIR IRRIGATION CANALS -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 19 May 50

Hankow, 17 May (Hsin-hua) -- With the help of the People's government, various water conservation projects are being carried out by farmers in the Central and South China Regional District to increase agricultural production in 1950.

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Kiangsi Province -- The provincial government is loaning 4,920,000 shih chin /one shih chin equals 1 1/10 pounds/ of rice to the workers to repair irrigation canals within the province which will permit rice production to be increased by 147,000 shih /one shih equals 2.94 bushels/ in 1950. In the Chi-an Administrative District, more repairs on irrigation canals, reservoirs, dams, and dikes are now completed, and an additional 212,400 mou of farmland have been made irrigable. The largest project was the repair of a dam at An-tse; which was completed in February. This put 39,000 mou of land under irrigation and has increased the annual rice production by at least 39,000 piculs.

Honan Province -- In Hsu-ch'ang Administrative District, 88 canals were dredged to drain flood water from 12,000 mou of rice fields, where 3,600,000 catties of rice can be produced this year. In Ch'en-liu Administrative District, another 170,000 mou of rice fields were drained by dredging 92 li /one li equals 1/3 mile/ of a creek in the area. In Shang-ch'iu Administrative District, 490,000 mou of farmland were made safe from floods by dredging 38 nearby creeks. Thirty million catties of rice can be produced on this land.

Hunan Province -- Repairs to drainage ditches were completed in Yung-ch'uan Administrative District which made 800 mou of farmland safe from floods, and also increased rice fields by 1,000 mou. Thus, an additional 400,000 catties of rice can be produced. In P'ing-chiang Hsien, repairs to 732 weirs were made to permit production of an additional 20,000 shih of rice.

Hupei Province -- A total of 13 large dams and weirs are to be repaired in Hupei Province in 1950. In Hsiang-yang Hsien, 200,000 mou of farmland have been made safe from floods; 20,000 mou of rice fields have been assured of water; and 6,000 mou of dry farmland have been made irrigable. In Mien-yang Hsien, 100,000 mou of rice fields have been saved by the construction of drainage ditches.

Kwangtung Province -- The largest water-conservation project in the South China region in the repairing of dams at San-shui and Lu-pao, which is now in progress. When the project is completed, more than 3 million mou of arable land in that area will be made safe from floods.

CHEKIANG TO INCREASE HEMP PRODUCTION -- Hangchow Chekiang Jih-pao, 21 Mar 50

Hangchow -- To provide a large crop of textile fibers to meet the anticipated increasing demand for gunny sacks, the Chekiang Hemp Manufacturing Company, in February 1950, began publicizing in hemp-growing areas their purchase, at lucrative prices, of more than 1,000 piculs of hemp seeds of the best varieties and quality. Special care is being taken to prevent deterioration of the seed prior to its distribution. The Department of Industry (agricultural section) of the provincial government, will distribute the seed to hemp farmers principally in the seven districts of Lin-p'ing, Ch'iao-ssu, Ch'ang-an, Hsiao-shan, Chien-ch'iao, Ch'i-pao, and Ken-shan-men. Seed germination tests are being made by the Agricultural College of Chekiang University.

KWANGTUNG LEADS AFFORESTATION MOVEMENT -- Peiping Kuang-ming Jih-pao, 18 Apr 50

Peiping, 18 April (Hsin-hua) -- In the national movement for afforestation, the Kwangtung provincial government, through its department of agriculture and forestry, has set a good example by planting 2 1/2 million seedlings on 10,000 mou /one mu equals 1/6 acre/ of land along the valleys of the Pei Chiang and Hsi Chiang. It has also distributed to soldiers, farmers, and other civilian bodies for planting the young trees produced by 2,000 provincial nurseries.

Orders have been issued that all nurseries are to be reseeded so as to have a new supply of seedlings available next spring. Provision has also been made for the protection of existing forests from fires and unauthorized, indiscriminate

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cutting. The service units of the Fourth Field Army, in the neighborhood of Tung-kuan and Hui-chou, have greatly assisted this work. In Anhwei, Kweichow, and Sinkiang provinces, similar work is going forward.

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